



*Ensuring a safe and secure homeland for all North Dakotans*

## FACT SHEET: Integrating Community and Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning

### ■ Mitigation Planning Overview

Mitigation planning empowers communities to become disaster resilient by identifying and implementing projects designed to reduce or eliminate loss of life and damages to property.

Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans (MHMPs) outline practical strategies to bring resources together to protect citizens. MHMPs require broad-based community involvement to evaluate hazards, analyze their potential impacts, and discuss effective strategies to reduce or eliminate their impacts.

Protection of people provides the impetus for developing mitigation plans. But there is also a financial incentive – the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) requires each local, state, and tribal jurisdiction to have an MHMP in order to receive the full spectrum of federal disaster aid. Without a plan, federal disaster aid is limited in scope.

A recent study by the Multi-hazard Mitigation Council shows that each dollar spent on mitigation saves an average of four dollars.

### ■ NDDDES Role

The N.D. Department of Emergency Services (NDDDES) encourages hazard mitigation planning by every jurisdiction to ensure access to federal dollars during times of disasters. The CFR requires local and tribal jurisdictions to develop/update MHMPs every five years and the state to update its MHMP every three years.

Additionally, NDDDES assists communities through the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs to secure funding for mitigation projects that protect citizens and help communities become more disaster resilient. However, HMA programs are only available to those jurisdictions that have current FEMA-approved MHMPs.

### ■ Relationship Between Community and Mitigation Plans

Involvement of a broad spectrum of stakeholders is integral to both community and mitigation planning. Both plans elicit stakeholder insights into both short and long-range strategies.

Many strategies developed in community plans parallel those found in mitigation plans, such as ensuring safe, strategic community growth through enhanced zoning ordinances and building codes. FEMA estimates that rigorous building standards adopted by 20,000

communities across the country are saving the nation more than \$1.1 billion a year in prevented flood damages. The savings created by zoning is immeasurable.

The Mitigation Plan Review Tool, developed by FEMA, requires mitigation plans be integrated into community plans. Following are two key requirements:

- *Does the plan describe a process by which local governments will integrate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms, such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, when appropriate?*
- *Was the plan revised to reflect changes in development?*

#### ■ Strategies

Both community and mitigation plans provide the roadmap for jurisdictional development. The MHMPs identify mitigation strategies that warrant inclusion in community plans. A few of those strategies include:

- Improved zoning ordinances
- Upgraded building codes
- Digital mapping
- Acquisition of homes in floodways
- Relocation of vital records to safer elevations
- Generators for buildings used as public shelters
- Protection of critical infrastructure, such as water treatment plants
- Elevation of lift stations
- Storm water retention basins
- Community educational programs, such as Firewise
- Living snow fences
- Storm sewer improvements
- Development of green space
- Elevation of buildings
- Elevation of electrical panels and heating/cooling systems
- Installation of early warning systems
- Tornado shelters for manufactured home parks

#### ■ For More Information

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